

#### ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

An engine block heating system for a vehicle and the associated method of its operation. The engine block heating system has an electrical heating element that is coupled to the vehicle's engine. A power cord is provided for supplying electricity to the electrical heating element from a source external to the vehicle. A sensor is provided for detecting whether or not the power cord is connected to the vehicle. A disruption switch is coupled to both the starting circuit of the vehicle and the sensor. The disruption switch disrupts the starting circuit of the vehicle when the sensor detects that the power cord is connected to the vehicle. As such, the vehicle cannot be started when the power cord of the engine block heating system is attached to the vehicle.